Notes on the larvae of *Nola cucullatella* L., 1758 (Lep.: Nolidae) on Wanstead Flats, east London

Between 2.v.1996 and 13.v.1996, *Crataegus* bushes were beaten for Lepidoptera larvae, the most frequent species being *N. cucullatella.* The sixteen bushes beaten yielded no less than 54 larvae, with 13 being the maximum number noted on a single plant. The majority of the larvae were in 3rd instar.

Despite the abnormally cool weather in May, 1.8°C below average (deviation from 1961-1990 norms, Meteorological Office, London), a return visit to the area for the same purpose on 27.v.1996, yielded one larva of this Nolid species, out of the four *Crataegus* bushes beaten. The probability that all larvae had pupated, was evidenced by another individual larva being beaten from hawthorn, out of ten bushes, visited at Stratford cycle track, 29.v.1996. Assuming that the moth was also found at the same density in Stratford as on Wanstead Flats over the month of May, the larvae must have developed quickly despite the weather conditions, as an initial survey of the hawthorn in Stratford on 26.v.1996, yielded no larvae of any Macrolepidopteran.

Revell (1983, *Nolidae* in *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland,* eds. Heath, J. & Emmet, A.M., Harley Books, Essex) describes the larvae of *N. cucullatella* as awakening from hibernation in early to mid-April, with pupation occurring in early June.– GARETH E. KING, 25d Windsor Road, London E7 0QX.

***Quedius nigrocaeruleus* Fauv. (Col.: Staphylinidae) in Pembrokeshire (Dyfed)**

This very local frequenter of moles' nests appears to have been recorded more often in eastern England than elsewhere in the British Isles; and I have seen no record for Wales, though such may well exist. It may be advisable, therefore, to mention that I took a male (later checked by the aedeagus) under a stone on sandy ground at Freshwater West, near Milford Haven, in the third week of August as long ago as 1934. I have met with the species only once besides: a female from Higham Marshes, West Kent, 30.ix.1951, also under a stone. Many moles' nests do not produce this beetle. Joy (1913, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **49**: 276) points out that in *Q. nigrocaeruleus* the fine strigose lines on the thorax are abruptly bent in the mid-line, whereas in the closely similar and common *Q. mesomelinus* Marsh. they pass straight across it. If constant, this could prove a useful distinction in doubtful cases, especially for females.– A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.